



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE AGENTS SEIZE 39K OF COCAINE NEAR VIEQUES, PR

FAJARDO, Puerto Rico— U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 30- year-old, U.S. citizen, Gustavo Lacen-Berrios and 47-year-old, Dominican national, Victor Maracayo De la Cruz, for attempting to smuggle 39 kilograms of cocaine into the United States.

At approximately 11 p.m., a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) patrol aircraft assigned to the Caribbean Air and Marine Branch (CAMB), headquartered in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, detected a yola-type vessel navigating without lights approximately one mile south of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

CAMB marine enforcement units and ICE special agents assigned to Fajardo, Puerto Rico were immediately alerted of the suspicious vessel and preceded to its interception. At approximately 12:30 a.m., CBP marine officers began to chase the yola-type vessel occupied by two men.

Shortly after the chase began the two men ran the vessel aground at Media Luna, Vieques, Puerto Rico and tried to escape. Both men were later apprehended by ICE agents and marine safety officers.

The inspection of the boat revealed two bags containing 39 brick-type packages of a powdery white substance that tested positive to cocaine.

“Drug traffickers who think that the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, especially the islands of Vieques and Culebra, is an easy way to bring drugs into the United States need to think it again,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “ICE and our Department of Homeland Security partners in Puerto Rico are vigilant and we will continue to use all of our resources and authorities to stop illegal contraband from entering the United States through Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands.”

Lacen-Berrios and Maracayo De la Cruz are in federal custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

